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**NATION'S PROBATION AND PAROLE POPULATION  
REACHED ALMOST 3.9 MILLION LAST YEAR**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Almost 3.9 million adult men and women were on probation or parole at the end of 1996, an increase of about 128,000 during the year, the Justice Department reported today. The number of offenders being supervised in the community on probation or parole increased 3.4 percent during 1996, compared to the 3.3 percent annual average since 1990.

The total number of adults under correctional supervision--incarcerated or in the community--reached a new high of 5.5 million at the end of 1996. As of last December 31, 2.8 percent of the U.S. adult population, or about one in every 35 adults, were incarcerated or on probation or parole.

At the end of last year, 3,180,363 adult offenders were on probation. More than half (55 percent) had been convicted of a felony, 26 percent had been convicted of a misdemeanor, 17 percent for driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol and 2 percent for other offenses.

An additional 704,709 adults at year-end 1996 were on parole, which is conditional, supervised release following a prison term. Parolees are subject to re-incarceration for rule violations. Almost all of the offenders on parole (96 percent) had served a felony sentence. Fewer than half of all those entering parole in

1996 had received their release as a result of a parole board decision; 48 percent had received a mandatory release because of a sentencing statute or a good-time provision that released them from prison.

Three-quarters of probationers and parolees maintained regular contact with a supervisory agency. The other offenders were not required to have regular contact (7 percent of probationers and 10 percent of parolees) or could not be located (10 percent of probationers and 7 percent of parolees).

Texas had the largest number of adults on probation and parole with more than 538,000 under supervision, followed by California with 389,000. At the end of 1996, 3.9 percent of all adults in Texas were on probation or parole.

Fourteen states reported that fewer than 1 percent of their adult populations were on probation or parole. West Virginia had the lowest probation and parole supervision rate (466 offenders per 100,000 adults), followed by North Dakota (553), Kentucky (560) and Mississippi (587).

Five states reported increases of at least 10 percent in their probation populations during 1996, led by Virginia (up 22.1 percent) and Alabama (up 16.0 percent). Eight states reported increases of at least 10 percent in their parole populations, led by New Hampshire (up 35.8 percent) and Alaska (up 20.5 percent).

Women represent a growing percentage of the probation and parole populations nationwide. There were 515,600 women on probation (21 percent of all probationers) and 79,300 on parole (11 percent of all parolees) in 1996, up from 18 percent and 8 percent respectively in 1990.

At the end of 1996 just over a third of probationers (765,700)

and nearly half of parolees (297,000) were black, while two-thirds of probationers (1,417,700) and half of parolees (345,400) were white. Persons of other races accounted for about 1 percent of each population (29,900 probationers and 8,200 parolees.) Hispanics, who may be of any race, comprised 15 percent of probationers (271,000) and 20 percent of parolees (108,400).

During 1996 more than 1.5 million probationers and almost 400,000 parolees were released from supervision. Two-thirds of those exiting probation (708,600) and just under half of those exiting parole (179,900) had successfully met the conditions of their supervision. Eighteen percent of probationers (196,900) who were released in 1996 and 40 percent of parolees (155,600) were subsequently re-incarcerated because of a rule violation or new offense.

The data were collected and analyzed by Jodi M. Brown and Allen J. Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) statisticians. More information from BJS is available at the BJS Internet site:

**<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>**

Additional criminal justice materials can be obtained from the Office of Justice Programs homepage at:

**<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>**

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## Adults on probation, 1996

Region and jurisdiction	Probation population, 1/1/96	1996		Probation population, 12/31/96	Percent change in probation population during 1996	Number on probation on 12/31/96 per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	3,077,861	1,651,544	1,545,937	3,180,363	3.3%	1,621
Federal <sup>a</sup>	35,457	18,796	19,952	34,301	-3.3%	17
State	3,042,404	1,632,748	1,525,985	3,146,062	3.4	1,603
<b>Northeast</b>	538,941	243,971	224,307	558,605	3.6%	1,434
Connecticut	54,507	37,290	35,819	55,978	2.7	2,261
Maine <sup>b</sup>	8,641	2,651	3,596	7,696	-10.9	815
Massachusetts	43,680	36,436	35,258	44,858	2.7	960
New Hampshire	4,347	3,232	3,165	4,414	1.5	509
New Jersey	126,759	61,851	62,729	125,881	-7	2,098
New York	168,012	47,502	34,934	180,580	7.5	1,323
Pennsylvania	106,823	41,643	37,934	110,532	3.5	1,206
Rhode Island	18,850	9,385	7,789	20,446	8.5	2,708
Vermont	7,322	3,981	3,083	8,220	12.3	1,860
<b>Midwest</b>	675,380	481,350	459,923	702,419	4.0%	1,532
Illinois	109,489	72,672	66,658	115,503	5.5	1,329
Indiana	95,267	77,962	73,639	99,590	4.5	2,294
Iowa	16,579	12,559	13,754	15,384	-7.2	721
Kansas	16,547	13,805	14,620	15,732	-4.9	835
Michigan <sup>c</sup>	141,436	117,050	112,937	148,595	5.1	2,106
Minnesota <sup>c</sup>	83,778	57,314	55,853	88,039	5.1	2,581
Missouri <sup>c</sup>	41,728	23,799	20,804	44,644	7.0	1,126
Nebraska	13,895	12,753	12,145	14,503	4.4	1,199
North Dakota	2,320	1,581	1,380	2,521	8.7	531
Ohio <sup>c</sup>	103,327	65,556	64,155	102,755	-6	1,234
South Dakota <sup>c,d</sup>	3,745	4,324	4,151	3,484	-7.0	660
Wisconsin <sup>c</sup>	47,269	21,975	19,827	51,669	9.3	1,354
<b>South</b>	1,248,608	629,386	594,268	1,281,451	2.6%	1,858
Alabama <sup>c,e</sup>	33,410	7,416	4,251	38,764	16.0	1,213
Arkansas	22,397	7,828	6,192	24,033	7.3	1,299
Delaware <sup>e</sup>	16,124	:	:	16,528	2.5	3,012
District of Columbia	10,414	5,399	6,073	9,740	-6.5	2,246
Florida <sup>c</sup>	243,736	156,044	147,648	249,479	2.4	2,273
Georgia	142,954	71,241	70,038	144,157	.8	2,669
Kentucky <sup>c</sup>	11,499	7,503	6,171	11,689	1.7	401
Louisiana	33,753	11,920	10,298	35,375	4.8	1,135
Maryland	71,029	35,467	35,943	70,553	-7	1,864
Mississippi	9,595	3,827	3,423	9,999	4.2	510
North Carolina <sup>c</sup>	97,921	54,271	49,111	102,483	4.7	1,867
Oklahoma <sup>c</sup>	27,866	13,970	13,729	28,090	.8	1,161
South Carolina	39,821	15,479	13,218	42,082	5.7	1,524
Tennessee	36,485	20,685	19,769	37,401	2.5	936
Texas <sup>f</sup>	421,213	192,793	188,217	425,789	1.1	3,113
Virginia	24,264	25,543	20,187	29,620	22.1	587
West Virginia <sup>c</sup>	6,127	:	:	5,669	-7.5	404
<b>West</b>	579,475	278,041	247,487	603,587	4.2%	1,421
Alaska <sup>e</sup>	3,481	1,699	1,420	3,760	8.0	890
Arizona	40,614	12,854	10,278	43,190	6.3	1,318
California	280,545	147,585	136,111	292,019	4.1	1,269
Colorado <sup>c</sup>	42,687	20,919	18,619	41,212	-3.5	1,459
Hawaii	12,957	7,082	5,801	14,238	9.9	1,623
Idaho <sup>g</sup>	5,308	2,239	1,692	5,855	10.3	696
Montana <sup>b</sup>	4,318	1,509	1,354	4,473	3.6	692
Nevada <sup>b</sup>	8,634	5,733	4,607	9,760	13.0	823
New Mexico	8,524	9,197	8,793	8,928	4.7	737
Oregon <sup>g</sup>	39,725	16,878	14,311	42,292	6.5	1,766
Utah	8,562	4,125	3,576	9,111	6.4	689
Washington <sup>c</sup>	120,466	46,198	38,878	125,317	4.0	3,059
Wyoming <sup>c</sup>	3,654	2,023	2,047	3,432	-6.1	986

Note: Counts are subject to revision. Final counts and additional data will be published in *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1996*.

:Not known.

<sup>a</sup>Defined as persons received for probation directly from court.

<sup>b</sup>Total entries and exits are estimated.

<sup>c</sup>Because of nonresponse or incomplete data, the population on December 31, 1996, does not equal the population on January 1, 1996, plus entries, minus exits.

<sup>d</sup>Data are for year ending June 30, 1996.

<sup>e</sup>January 1, 1996, population count is estimated.

<sup>f</sup>Data are for year ending August 31, 1996.

<sup>g</sup>Total entries are estimated.

## Adults on parole, 1996

Region and jurisdiction	Parole population, 1/1/96	1996		Parole population, 12/31/96	Percent change in parole population during 1996	Number on parole on 12/31/96 per 100,000 adult residents
		Entries	Exits			
<b>U.S. total</b>	679,421	421,055	395,721	704,709	3.7%	359
Federal <sup>a</sup>	51,461	30,518	22,846	59,133	14.9%	30
State	627,960	390,537	372,875	645,576	2.8	329
<b>Northeast</b>	175,207	74,605	67,564	181,856	3.8%	467
Connecticut	1,233	1,505	1,655	1,083	-12.2	44
Maine	55	2	0	57	3.6	6
Massachusetts <sup>b,c</sup>	5,256	3,889	3,917	4,836	-8.0	104
New Hampshire	785	854	573	1,066	35.8	123
New Jersey	37,867	13,530	9,850	41,547	9.7	692
New York	55,568	27,064	25,495	57,137	2.8	419
Pennsylvania	73,234	26,903	25,124	75,013	2.4	819
Rhode Island	591	532	548	575	-2.7	76
Vermont	618	326	402	542	-12.3	123
<b>Midwest</b>	86,598	60,401	60,443	87,013	.5%	190
Illinois	29,541	22,763	22,240	30,064	1.8	346
Indiana	3,200	4,382	4,007	3,575	11.7	82
Iowa	2,340	1,964	2,104	2,200	-6.0	103
Kansas	6,094	4,074	4,164	6,004	-1.5	319
Michigan	13,862	9,463	8,716	14,609	5.4	207
Minnesota	2,117	2,698	2,438	2,377	12.3	70
Missouri <sup>b,c</sup>	13,001	4,316	5,384	12,197	-6.2	308
Nebraska	661	823	778	706	6.8	58
North Dakota	114	191	201	104	-8.8	22
Ohio	7,432	4,785	5,886	6,331	-14.8	76
South Dakota	688	614	577	725	5.4	137
Wisconsin <sup>b</sup>	7,548	4,328	3,948	8,121	7.6	213
<b>South</b>	240,478	108,639	104,231	244,475	1.7%	354
Alabama <sup>c</sup>	7,793	1,651	4,231	5,213	-33.1	163
Arkansas <sup>c</sup>	4,685	5,551	5,093	5,143	9.8	278
Delaware <sup>c</sup>	1,033	:	:	1,033	--	188
District of Columbia	6,340	2,951	2,171	7,120	12.3	1,642
Florida <sup>d</sup>	11,197	3,984	5,938	9,243	-17.5	84
Georgia <sup>b</sup>	19,434	11,959	10,036	21,146	8.8	392
Kentucky	4,257	3,491	3,127	4,621	8.6	159
Louisiana	19,028	11,408	9,438	20,998	10.4	674
Maryland	15,748	11,080	10,582	16,246	3.2	429
Mississippi <sup>b</sup>	1,510	1,107	886	1,513	.2	77
North Carolina	18,501	10,544	16,687	12,358	-33.2	225
Oklahoma	2,356	465	662	2,159	-8.4	89
South Carolina	5,545	1,334	1,512	5,367	-3.2	194
Tennessee	8,851	3,918	3,835	8,934	.9	223
Texas <sup>c</sup>	103,089	28,149	18,644	112,594	9.2	823
Virginia <sup>b,c</sup>	10,188	10,479	10,767	9,918	-2.7	197
West Virginia	923	568	622	869	-5.9	62
<b>West</b>	125,677	146,892	140,637	132,232	5.3%	311
Alaska <sup>b</sup>	459	542	378	553	20.5	131
Arizona	4,109	5,314	5,638	3,785	-7.9	115
California	91,807	126,506	121,250	97,063	5.7	422
Colorado	3,024	3,039	2,769	3,294	8.9	117
Hawaii	1,689	623	579	1,733	2.6	198
Idaho	619	469	396	692	11.8	82
Montana <sup>b</sup>	744	:	:	771	3.6	119
Nevada <sup>b</sup>	2,863	:	:	3,216	12.3	271
New Mexico	1,366	1,381	1,321	1,426	4.4	118
Oregon	15,019	6,893	6,112	15,800	5.2	660
Utah	2,700	1,914	1,639	2,975	10.2	225
Washington <sup>c</sup>	875	42	357	560	-36.0	14
Wyoming <sup>b</sup>	403	169	198	364	-9.7	105

Note: Counts are subject to revision. Final counts and additional data will be published in *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1996*.

: Not known.

-- Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Defined as persons received for probation supervision upon release from prison. Includes supervised release, parole, military parole, special parole, and mandatory release.

<sup>b</sup>Because of nonresponse or incomplete data, the population on December 31, 1996, does not equal the population on January 1, 1996, plus entries, minus exits.

<sup>c</sup>All data are estimated.

<sup>d</sup>The January 1, 1996, count is estimated.

## Number of adults under community supervision or incarcerated, 1985-96

Year	Total estimated correctional population <sup>a</sup>	Community supervision		Incarcerated		Percent of U.S. adults under supervision
		Probation	Parole	Jail	Prison	
1985	3,011,500	1,968,712	300,203	254,986	487,593	1.7%
1990	4,348,000	2,670,234	531,407	403,019	743,382	2.3%
1991	4,535,600	2,728,472	590,442	424,129	792,535	2.4
1992	4,762,600	2,811,611	658,601	441,781	850,566	2.5
1993	4,944,000	2,903,061	676,100	455,500	909,381	2.6
1994	5,141,300	2,981,022	690,371	479,800	990,147	2.7
1995	5,335,100	3,077,861	679,421	499,300	1,078,545	2.7
1996 <sup>b</sup>	5,525,000	3,180,363	704,709	510,400	1,129,500	2.8
Percent change						
1995-96	3.6%	3.3%	3.7%	2.2%	4.7%	
1985-96	83.5	61.5	134.7	100.2	131.6	
Average annual percent change						
1990-96	4.1%	3.0%	4.8%	4.0%	7.2%	
1985-96	5.7	4.5	8.1	6.5	7.9	

Note: Counts for probation, prison, and parole populations are for December 31 of each year. Jail counts are for June 30. Counts of adults held in jail facilities for 1993-96 were estimated and rounded to the nearest 100. All counts have been updated with the most recently reported data. Yearend parole counts for 1995 dropped from the previously reported total of 700,174 due to changes in reporting methods in New Jersey and the Federal system. Prison counts are based on persons in custody only.

<sup>a</sup>A small number of individuals may have multiple correctional statuses; consequently, the total number of persons under correctional supervision is an overestimate.

<sup>b</sup>The number of prisoners in custody was estimated and rounded to the nearest 100.

## Community corrections among the States, yearend 1996

10 States with the largest 1996 community corrections populations	Number supervised	10 States with the largest percent increase	Percent increase	10 States with the highest rates of supervision, 1996	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents <sup>a</sup>	10 States with the lowest rates of supervision, 1996	Persons supervised per 100,000 adult U.S. residents <sup>a</sup>
<b>Probation:</b>							
Texas	425,789	Virginia	22.1%	Texas	3,113	Kentucky	401
California	292,019	Alabama	16.0	Washington	3,059	West Virginia	404
Florida	249,479	Nevada	13.0	Delaware	3,012	New Hampshire	509
New York	180,580	Vermont	12.3	Rhode Island	2,708	Mississippi	510
Michigan	148,595	Idaho	10.3	Georgia	2,669	North Dakota	531
Georgia	144,157	Hawaii	9.9	Minnesota	2,581	Virginia	587
New Jersey	125,881	Wisconsin	9.3	Indiana	2,294	South Dakota	660
Washington	125,317	North Dakota	8.7	Florida	2,273	Utah	689
Illinois	115,503	Rhode Island	8.5	Connecticut	2,261	Montana	692
Pennsylvania	110,532	Alaska	8.0	Michigan	2,106	Idaho	696
<b>Parole:</b>							
Texas	112,594	New Hampshire	35.8%	Texas	823	Maine	6
California	97,063	Alaska	20.5	Pennsylvania	819	Washington	14
Pennsylvania	75,013	Minnesota	12.3	New Jersey	692	North Dakota	22
New York	57,137	Nevada	12.3	Louisiana	674	Connecticut	44
New Jersey	41,547	Idaho	11.8	Oregon	660	Nebraska	58
Illinois	30,064	Indiana	11.7	Maryland	429	West Virginia	62
Georgia	21,146	Louisiana	10.4	California	422	Minnesota	70
Louisiana	20,998	Utah	10.2	New York	419	Rhode Island	76
Maryland	16,246	Arkansas	9.8	Georgia	392	Ohio	76
Oregon	15,800	New Jersey	9.7	Illinois	346	Mississippi	77

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded.

<sup>a</sup>Rates are computed using the U.S. adult resident population on July 1, 1996.

**Characteristics of adults on probation, 1985, 1990, and 1996**

	1985	1990	1996
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	84%	82%	79%
Female	16	18	21
<b>Race</b>			
White	70%	68%	64%
Black	29	31	35
Other races	1	1	1
<b>Hispanic origin</b>			
Hispanic	14%	18%	15%
Non-Hispanic	86	82	85
<b>Supervision status</b>			
Active	85%	83%	79%
Inactive	7	9	7
Absconded	6	6	10
Out-of-State	2	2	2
Other	**	**	2
<b>Entries to probation</b>			
Probation without incarceration	93%	87%	72%
Probation with incarceration	5	8	13
Probation of other types	2	5	15
<b>Exits from probation</b>			
Successful completion	80%	69%	65%
Returned to incarceration	8	14	18
With new sentence	3	3	5
Without new sentence	5	11	13
Other unsuccessful	6	9	5
Other	6	7	13
<b>Type of offense</b>			
Felony	50%	48%	55%
Misdemeanor	49	31	26
Driving while intoxicated	**	21	17
Other infractions	1	1	2

Note: Percentages are based on reported data only.  
 \*\*Not available.

**Characteristics of adults on parole, 1985, 1990, and 1996**

	1985	1990	1996
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	93%	92%	89%
Female	7	8	11
<b>Race</b>			
White	54%	52%	53%
Black	44	47	46
Other races	2	1	1
<b>Hispanic origin</b>			
Hispanic	17%	18%	20%
Non-Hispanic	83	82	80
<b>Supervision status</b>			
Active	82%	82%	78%
Inactive	6	6	10
Absconded	8	6	7
Out-of-State	4	6	5
Other	**	**	1
<b>Entries to parole</b>			
Discretionary parole	58%	59%	46%
Mandatory parole	42	41	48
Reinstatement	**	**	4
Other	**	**	2
<b>Discharges from parole</b>			
Successful completion	58%	50%	46%
Returned to incarceration	35	46	40
With new sentence	12	17	12
With revocation pending	2	11	28
Other	21	18	1
Transferred to another State	2	1	2
Other	5	3	12
<b>Length of sentence</b>			
Less than 1 year	1%	5%	4%
One year or more	99	95	96

Note: Percentages are based on reported data only.  
 \*\*Not available

**Explanatory notes**

The 1996 Probation and Parole Data Surveys provide a count of the total number of persons supervised in the community on January 1 and December 31, 1996, and a count of the number entering and leaving supervision during the year. These surveys cover all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal system.

**Probation**

The 1996 Probation Data Survey was sent to 272 respondents — 39 central State reporters and 233 separate State, county, or court agencies. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Colorado (9), Florida (15), Georgia (2), Michigan (114), Missouri (2), New Mexico (2),

Ohio (52), Oklahoma (3), Tennessee (3), Washington (24), and West Virginia (2). One local agency in Michigan did not provide data. For this agency, the 12/31/95 population count was used as an estimate of the 1/1/96 and 12/31/96 counts.

**Parole**

The 1996 Parole Data Survey was sent to 54 respondents — 52 central reporters, the California Youth Authority, and 1 municipal agency. States with multiple reporters were Alabama (2), and California (2).